

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 EUR-12 ACDA-05 NSC-05 SAB-01

SAJ-01 /073 W

----- 043778

R 251058Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3562

INFO COMMANDANT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE NWCCD

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4154

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SF, MARR, MOPS, MILI, XD XI.

SUBJECT: NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT TO CAIRO

1. SUMMARY. MWC MIDDLE EAST STUDY GROUP VISITED CAIRO PERIOD APR 20-23 AND WAS WELL RECEIVED BY EGYPTIANS. PRESIDENT SADAT AND FOREIGN MINISTER WERE OUT OF EGYPT ON OFFICIAL VISITS, BUT GROUP MET WITH DEP PM/MIN WAR GAMASSY AND MIN FON AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD RIAD. VISIT INCLUDED LECTURE AT THE NASSER ACADEMY OF HIGHER LEARNING, ONE-DAY VISIT TO THE SUEZ CANAL, BARLEV LINE, AND PORT TAWFIQ, DINNER PARTY HOSTED BY THE COMMANDANT OF THE NASSER ACADEMY, AND RECEPTION GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR. END SUMMARY.

2. NWC STUDY GROUP BEGAN WITH THOROUGH BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR ON ALL PHASES OF US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. WHILE ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED MEETINGS WITH PRES. SADAT AND DEPPM/FONMIN FAHMY COULD NOT BE HELD BECAUSE THEY WERE OUTSIDE EGYPT, IN
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SAUDI ARABIA AND USSR RESPECTIVELY, ON RATHER HASTILY

ARRANGED OFFICIAL VISITS. SADAT TOLD AMBASSADOR BEFORE DEPARTURE HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE GROUP, RECALLING GOOD MEETING HE HAD WITH NWC LAST YEAR. FAHMY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TOP MFA OFFICIALS, ONE OF WHOM UNDERSEC MUHAMMAD RIAD, GAVE BRIEFING ARRANGED AT LAST MINUTE BEFORE GROUP'S DEPARTURE.

3. MAIN SESSION WITH TOP OFFICIAL WAS WITH DEP PRI MIN/ MIN WAR GENERAL GAMASSY ON APRIL 22. AFTER AN INTRODUCTORY BRIEFING HE THEN OPENED THE DISCUSSION TO QUESTIONS. IN HIS BRIEFING HE REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE ARAB-ISARELI CONFLICT; REITERATED THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAD NOT RECEIVED MIG-23 AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO JANUARY 29, 1975 AND EVEN NOW HAD NO MIG 25'S; AND CONCLUDED HIS BRIEFING BY STATING THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THE ISRAEL IS PLANNING ANOTHER WAR OF EXPANSION. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED EGYPT'S DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, BUT NOTING THAT OTHER WAYS WOULD BE SOUGHT IF NO PEACE ARRANGEMENT POSSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, GAMASSY STATED THAT EGYPT IS WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY GUARANTEEING POWER, ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL, TO ENSURE NON-VIOLATION OF THE BORDERS, AFTER EGYPT GETS ITS OCCUPIED LAND BACK. HE INDICATED THAT THE GUARANTEEING POWER COULD BE THE USA; THE US AND THE USSR; OR A GROUP OF NATIONS THAT COULD BE SELECTED BY ISRAEL; OR THE UN. ALSO, HE MENTIONED THAT THE US HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN COMING BACK INTO THE MIDDLE EAST AREA AFTER THE 1973 WAR. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN 1956 PRESIDENT EISENHOWER NEGOTIATED WITH ALL THREE COUNTRIES, BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND ISRAEL TO PULL OUT OF THE SINAI, AND AFFECTED IT WITHIN THREE MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE US HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PERSUADE ISRAEL ALONE, AFTER TWO AND A HALF YEARS, TO WITHDRAW IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN RESOLUTIONS. GAMASSY ANSWERED IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION THAT THE NATIONAL HOME FOR THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE WITHIN THE AREA THAT THE PALESTINIANS CAME FROM ORIGINALLY. HE ALSO MENTIONED WITH MUCH LAUGHTER, THAT EGYPT DOES NOT TAKE THE MOVES OF QHADDAFY OF LIBYA SERIOUSLY.

4. UNDERSEC RIAD, JUST BACK FROM MOSCOW, GRACIOUSLY AGREED TO MEET WITH THE NWC GROUP ON APRIL 23. HE INTRODUCED THE DISCUSSION BY STATING THAT EGYPT IS COMMITTED TO UN RESOLUTION 242, AND HE POINTED OUT THAT, TO KEEP THE MEANING IN CONTEXT, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RESOLUTION MUST BE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY INCLUDING THE PREAMBLE AS WELL AS THE TEXT. UNDERSTANDING THAT, IT THEN IS CLEAR THAT THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE REGARDING EGYPTIAN LANDS, THEY MUST BE RETURNED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SYRIA HAD AGREED TO RESOLUTION 338 AND THEREFORE IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A JUST SETTLEMENT INCLUDING A HOME FOR THE PALESTINIANS WITHIN THE ORIGINAL PRE-1967 BORDERS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE AREAS WHERE EGYPT HAS SHOWN FLEXIBILITY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS

FOR A SETTLEMENT, HE RESPONDED THAT THERE CAN BE NO FLEXIBILITY REGARDING EGYPTIAN TERRITORY, HOWEVER EGYPT HAS SHOWN GREAT FLEXIBILITY ON OTHER MATTERS SUCH AS ACCEPTING THE ROGER'S PLAN, THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, BY GOING TO GENEVA, AND EVEN BY ACCEPTING AMERICAN TOURISTS WITH ISRAELI VISAS IN THEIR PASSPORTS INTO EGYPT. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION HE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN IF THE USSR WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A NEW CONTRACT FOR MILITARY WEAPONS DELIVERIES. THE WEAPONS WHICH RECENTLY HAVE BEEN DELIVERED WERE PART OF 1972-1973 CONTRACTS, HE ADDED. RIAD THEN CLOSED THE DISCUSSION WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE EGYPTIANS HOPED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE A REPEAT OF 1974 AND EARLIER YEARS IN WHICH ISRAEL RECEIVED ALL THE ARMS, AND MORE, THAN SHE NEEDED.

5. THE NWC MIDDLE EAST STUDIES GROUP VISITED SUEZ CANAL, BARLEV LINE, STRONG POINTS AT AIN MUSA, PORT TAWFIQ, AND SUEZ CITY ON APRIL 22. THEY RECEIVED BRIEFINGS ON THE CONDUCT OF THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR, AND WERE SHOWN THE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS IN THE CANAL AREA.

6. THE COMMANDANT OF THE NASSER ACADEMY OF HIGHER LEARNING, MAJ GEN KAMAL EL DIN MUNIR, HOSTED A DINNER PARTY AT THE OFFICERS CLUB FOR THE NWC VISITORS, EVENING OF APRIL 21, AND AMBASSADOR EILTS HOSTED A RECEPTION AT HIS RESIDENCE IN THEIR HONOR ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 22. BOTH AFFAIRS WERE WELL ATTENDED PARTICULARLY, AMBASSADOR'S PARTY, WHERE THERE WAS UNUSUAL PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBER OF GENERALS, AS WELL AS PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ETC., PERMITTING STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN NUMBER OF INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS.

7. NWC MIDDLE EAST STUDIES GROUP WAS BRIEFED BY THE EGYPTIANS WITH CANDOR, FRANKNESS, AND SINCERITY. THE COMBINATION OF BRIEFINGS AND TRAVELS IN EGYPT LED THEM
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TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EGYPT, AND MEMBERS OF THE GROUP INDICATED THAT THIS EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS, MILITARY SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO04154
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750146-0089
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750413/aaaaamif.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <18 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE VISIT TO CAIRO
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, MILI, SF, XD, XF, NWC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006